Chinese Bible Women

How they are Trained
What they Do

THE CHURCH TRAINING-SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

The Church Training School for Women, Shanghai

HOW THE SCHOOL BEGAN

THE Church Training-School for Women opened on the seventh of September, 1896. There had long been need for trained women to assist in Church work in the different parishes, and this school was the outgrowth of that necessity. When in America in 1894, Miss Dodson interested the Woman's Auxiliary in this need, and it was due to the interest that she aroused in the branches that the school building became an accomplished fact.

It is built of brick, in foreign style, thus securing firm walls. The interior is purely Chinese in finish and furniture. Below are a reception and assembly room combined, two lecture rooms, a work-room, and a small pantry. Above are cubicles sufficient to accommodate eighteen women at the most. The kitchen, dining-room, bath-rooms and fuel house are all at the back and separate from the main building.

The school opened with four students. The work has been slow, many applicants have been refused because they have failed to grasp that this is not a "widows' home" or "charity institution;" but a school for the uplifting of Chinese womanhood.

THE SCHOOL YEAR

For convenience, the school calendar follows the same seasons for opening and closing as that of St. Mary's Hall. The year is divided into two terms. The summer term begins after China New Year, and lasts until the middle of July; the winter term begins in September, and lasts until China New Year. Examinations take place at the end of each term, and the students are promoted. The holidays conform with those of the other institutions on the compound.

TWO DEPARTMENTS

There are two distinct departments in the Training-school, namely, the industrial school and the school proper. In the industrial department, the students are taught all kinds of embroidery. A specialty is made of ecclesiastical embroidery. A student of this department receives her board and two dollars per month for services. She is given two hours' instruction a day, and is expected to study one hour in the evening. When she has acquired skill in all kinds of embroidery taught, a certificate is given her. She will then be assisted in getting a position to teach embroidery in some of the various schools that are constantly applying for such a teacher. Should the woman prefer to enter the regular course and prepare to become a Bible-woman, it is possible for her to do so, if satisfactory.

In the school proper the students must come recommended by some parish priest, as only women of the best character are accepted, and this has been our best safe-guard. Women with small children are not always turned away, for children prove a great convenience

sometimes, and special arrangements are made in individual cases. The members are increasing. A better class of women are seeking admission. The average intelligence is much higher. The women are more spiritually minded than they were, and that of course is of the most importance after all.

THE COURSE OF STUDY

Though the course of study may be completed in two years, few Chinese women can do it in that time unless they have been students all their lives. Some who have graduated could neither read nor write when they entered, and it took these three years and a half to complete the course, which is:

First Year.—Two Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Life of our Lord, the Prayer Book, the Church Catechism.

Second Year—Two Epistles, the extension of the Kingdom, Old Testament Scriptures, the Parables of our Lord, Church Doctrine.

Besides these the students study arithmetic and Chinese character writing, and have lessons in singing. Some of them study Romanization, *i. e.*, the writing of Chinese sounds in our alphabet; and instrumental music is taught, for a Bible-woman who can play hymns is better qualified for work than one who cannot. Lectures are sometimes given by the foreign women on Church Missionary work in other lands.

Every Wednesday afternoon the women meet at Mrs. Pott's house, where they receive valuable instruction, usually on the Epistle for the following Sunday.

PRACTICAL WORK

One hour every day is given to practical work, for each senior in turn talks to the heathen women, who come to Dr. Lincoln's dispensary, and each junior listens in turn, for independence comes slowly to a Chinese woman. When the weather permits, one of the seniors is taken to Woosung on Sundays, where instruction is given to a class of women, thus the students are well-qualified in practice as well as in theory when they graduate from the school.

THE INDUSTRIAL FUND

Each woman spends a certain part of her time in the sewing room where beautiful embroidery as well as plain sewing is done. The balance from the industrial fund helps to support and educate these women.

THE APPROPRIATION

The Board appropriates $400 for the support of the Training-school. It is estimated that $50 will cover the expenses of one pupil for a year, and gifts of this amount are always welcome. The salary of Mrs. Fredericks, the Missionary in charge, is paid from the United Offering of the Woman's Auxiliary.

RESULTS

The women go out as Bible-women and as assistants to the foreign women missionaries in the Church's institutions. They are getting to be many in number, and a woman who has taken the full course of study at the Training-school and has gone out to teach the Gospel Truths, is not allowed to forget that she still belongs to the school, and that she is remembered daily by its resident members in special prayers.

MRS. FREDERICKS WITH GRADUATES AND PUPILS

¶ This pamphlet may be obtained from The Corresponding Secretary, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, by asking for Leaflet No. 245.

¶ All offerings for Missions should be sent to Mr. George C. Thomas, Treasurer, Church Missions House, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York.

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